

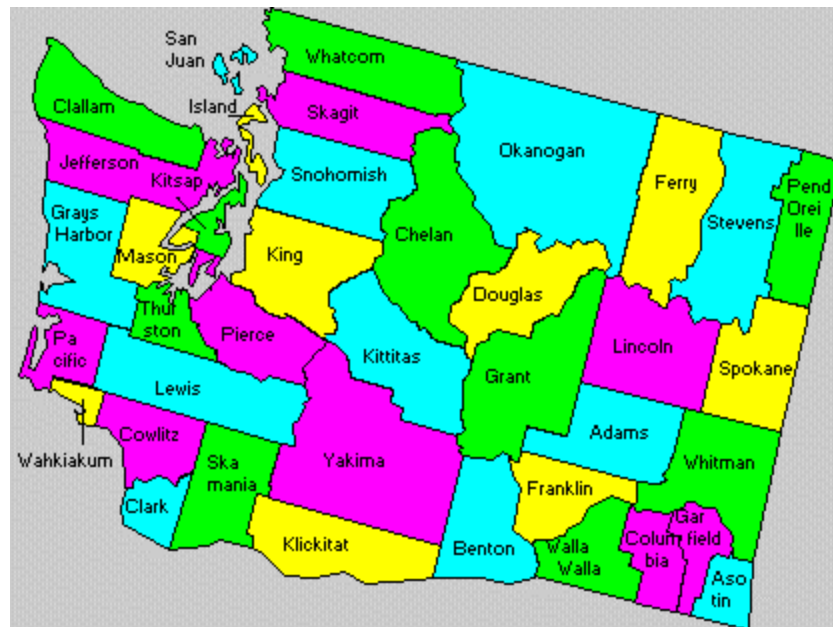
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Washington

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Washington

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 5,756,361 (1999 estimate); 4,866,692 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 88.5% white; 3.1% black; 1.7% Asian/Pacific Islander; 4.3% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut; 2.4% other race; 4.4% Hispanic Origin

Politics²

- Governor: Gary Locke (D)
- Lt. Governor: Brad Owen
- Attorney General: Christine O. Gregoire
- Secretary of State: Ralph Munro
- U.S. Senators: Slade Gorton (R); Patty Murray (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-9, respectively): Jay Inslee; Jack Metcalf; Brian Baird; Doc Hastings; George R. Nethercutt, Jr.; Norman D. Dicks; Jim McDermott; Jennifer Dunn; Adam Smith.

Programs/Initiatives

- FY99 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):³
 - \$100,000 to Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services, Port Angeles
 - \$99,847 to Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council, Spokane
 - \$99,973 to Longview Police Department, Longview
 - \$100,000 to Safe Streets Campaign, Tacoma
 - \$100,000 to Seattle Public Schools, Seattle
 - \$99,993 to TOGETHER!, Lacey
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁴
 - Seattle: The Central Area of Seattle became a Weed and Seed site in 1992.
 - Southeast Seattle: The three problem areas of focus for this site are youth violence and drugs, low educational achievement, and health issues.
 - Tacoma: This area became a Weed and Seed site on September 1, 1997.
- Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁵
Designated in 1997, this HIDTA is responsible for King, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties.
- Governor's Council on Substance Abuse⁶
This Council advises the Governor on issues and programs relating to substance abuse. This Council also assists with implementing strategies to support community efforts to reduce substance abuse and promotes public awareness and education.
- Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse⁷
This Division conducts a comprehensive program of alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and support services.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 1999, the Washington State Patrol arrested 4,893 people for drug offenses. In 1998, they had arrested 3,659 for these offenses.⁸
- The Washington State Patrol conducted 539 drug evaluations on drivers during 1999.⁹
- There were 17,233 total drug abuse violation arrests in Washington in 1998.¹⁰

Number of Arrests, Washington, 1998

Type of Offense	Juveniles	Total All Ages
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	23	130
Forcible Rape	133	684
Robbery	487	1,422
Aggravated Assault	1,075	5,002
Burglary	2,685	5,795
Larceny-theft	12,715	29,564
Motor Vehicle Theft	891	1,771
Drug Abuse Violations	2,429	17,233
Driving Under the Influence	308	17,011
Liquor Laws	4,675	14,183

Drugs

- Marijuana
The Northwest HIDTA has documented a dramatic increase in importation of Canadian grown marijuana and cross-border smuggling operations.¹¹ The three distinct sources of marijuana include local grows, Canadian grows, and Mexican marijuana.¹²
- Methamphetamine
An emerging problem within the Northwest HIDTA area surrounds the drugs methamphetamine and amphetamine. The consumption of meth is escalating in nearly all communities. There is large-scale importation of methamphetamine from Mexico along the I-5 corridor. In addition to this, small labs are proliferating in apartments, motels, and vans. It was projected that by year-end 1999, nearly 500 meth labs would be dismantled.¹³ There are two distinct types of meth labs operating in Washington, including 'traditional' labs using an ephedrine reduction process and 'cold cook' labs using over the counter precursors.¹⁴
- Heroin
The importation of Mexican black tar heroin is also at a high level in the Northwest HIDTA area. Abusers in the Seattle area prefer this type of heroin. Record numbers of heroin deaths have been recorded here. It is believed that shipments of Asian heroin may transit through Puget Sound ports for trans-shipment to Canada and the Eastern U.S.¹⁵
- Cocaine¹⁶
Cocaine use has dropped sharply during the last few years as methamphetamine has become more popular. However, cocaine remains available throughout the state at relatively stable prices. The dominant cocaine trafficking organizations in Washington are primarily Hispanic 'familial' organizations, largely centered in the

Yakima Valley. These organizations control the majority of the hydrochloride cocaine (powder) distribution in the state. The bulk of the hydrochloride cocaine in the state is brought up Interstate 5. The movement of crack cocaine also predominately takes place along I-5 into the Seattle-Tacoma area.

- Hallucinogens¹⁷
LSD continues it's resurgence, especially among teenagers who find it more affordable than other 'hard' drugs. LSD is found mainly around university areas and high schools.

Juveniles

- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)¹⁸
JRA provides preventive, rehabilitative, residential, and transition programs for juvenile offenders. The goals are to hold these juveniles accountable for their crimes, protect the public and reduce repetitive criminal behavior. Approximately 82% of youth committed to JRA are substance abusers or are chemically dependent.
- In 1995, 43.5% of 12th, 39.7% of 10th, and 27.2% of 8th graders in Washington had tried marijuana before. The same survey showed 23.3% of 12th graders had tried marijuana in the past 30 days. Also, 23% of 10th and 16.2% of 8th graders tried marijuana in the last 30 days.¹⁹
- This survey of Washington students also found that 1.9% of 12th, 3.2% of 10th, and 3.6% of 8th graders had tried cocaine in the past 30 days.²⁰

Consequences of Use

- From 1997 to 1998, Medical Examiners (ME) in Seattle reported a 20% increase in drug abuse deaths. In 1997 there were 210 drug abuse deaths, while in 1998 there were 251 such deaths.²¹
- Record numbers of heroin deaths have been reported in the Seattle area. In 1998, King County reported 144 heroin overdose deaths. In 1997, there were 111 such deaths.²²
- In 1998, there were 156 heroin/morphine mentions by Seattle MEs. During this same time, there were 78 cocaine mentions, 25 methadone mentions, 4 methamphetamine mentions, and 1 marijuana/hashish mention.²³
- From January to June 1999 there were 3,889 drug episodes in Seattle Emergency Departments (ED). There were 8,332 drug episodes in 1998.²⁴
- There were 6,325 ED drug mentions in Seattle from January to June 1999.²⁵

Number of Drug Mentions, Seattle EDs, January-June 1999

Drug Type	No. of Mentions
Cocaine	1,081
Heroin/Morphine	1,179
Marijuana/Hashish	407
Methamphetamine/Speed	150

Trafficking and Seizures²⁶

- In 1998 there were 14,613 marijuana plants eradicated and seized under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, WA, 1998

Washington		1998
Outdoor Operations	Plots eradicated	61
	Cultivated plants eradicated ^a	4,702
	Ditchweed eradicated ^b	--
Indoor Operations	Grows seized	139
	Plants eradicated	9,911
	Total plants eradicated	14,613
	Number of arrests	213
	Number of weapons seized	187
	Value of assets seized	\$1,892,219

^aMay include tended ditchweed; see footnote b.

^bDitchweed is a type of marijuana that grows wild.

Enforcement

- Northwest HIDTA Initiatives:²⁷
 - Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force: The purpose of this task force is to focus on all activity relating to the importation and exportation of narcotics, narcotic-related currency, and similar narcotic activity.
 - Drug Court Development: This initiative supports enhancements to existing Drug Court programs and the development of new Drug Court programs in each of the Northwest HIDTA counties.
 - HIDTA Integrated Task Force: The mission of this task force is to dismantle and disrupt core and secondary organizations that import, manufacture, and distribute poly-drugs in or through the Northwest HIDTA region.
- As of October 31, 1998, there were 13,182 full-time law enforcement employees in Washington.²⁸

Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, Washington, 1998

Officers		Civilians		Total
Male	Female	Male	Female	Employees
8,308	835	1,470	2,569	13,182

Courts

- As of March 31, 2000 there were 22 drug courts in Washington that have already been implemented or are being planned. Of these, 5 have been operating for over two years, 8 have recently been implemented, and 9 are being planned.²⁹
- During FY98, 25.0% of the Federally sentenced offenders in Washington were convicted of a drug offense.³⁰
- The majority of these cases involved powder cocaine (28.2%), followed by methamphetamine (27.6%).³¹
- Approximately 91% of those convicted of a trafficking offense received a prison sentence.³²

Distribution of Federally-Sentenced Offenders, WA, FY 1998

	United States		Washington	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Powder Cocaine	4,737	23.4	55	28.2
Crack Cocaine	4,833	23.9	15	7.6
Heroin	1,807	8.9	16	8.2
Marijuana	6,061	30.0	42	21.5
Methamphetamine	2,308	11.4	54	27.6
Other	418	2.0	11	5.6
Total Sentenced for Drugs	---	40.2	---	25.0

Corrections

- As of March 31, 2000 the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) was made up of 12 institutions and 18 Pre/Work Release programs.³³
- The total DOC population at this time was 14,330. There were 13,221 inmates and 1,109 offenders involved in Pre/Work Release programs.³⁴
- 92.3% of the offenders in Washington's DOC are male. 71% of the total population is white.³⁵
- 21.5% of the offenders in the Washington DOC had committed a drug offense.³⁶
- On December 31, 1998 there were 152,609 adults on probation in Washington.³⁷
- At this same time there were 375 adults on parole in Washington.³⁸

Treatment

- Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse³⁹
People are eligible for treatment through this office if they are low income or indigent and are assessed as alcohol or drug addicted. Special emphasis for treatment has been given to pregnant women, new mothers and families with children, injection drug users, people with HIV/AIDS, recipients of child welfare and child protective services, and youth.
- During 1997, 31,260 clients received substance abuse treatment in Washington. Washington had 298 treatment facilities at this time.⁴⁰

One-day Census of Clients in Treatment, Washington, 1997

	Total Clients		Clients Treated For:					
	Number	Percent	Alcohol Abuse Only		Drug Abuse Only		Both Problems	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total US	916,637	100.0	240,562	26.2	299,593	32.7	376,482	41.1
Washington	31,260	100.0	9,573	30.6	4,392	14.0	17,295	55.3

Sources

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- ² State of Washington web site at <http://access.wa.gov/>
- ³ Drug-Free Communities Web site: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/drugfree/chart99.html>
- ⁴ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁵ Northwest HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/nw-main.html>
- ⁶ Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Web site: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/boards2000.pdf>
- ⁷ Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse: <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/hrsa/hrsa3ov.html#DASA>
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- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Washington Department of Corrections, <http://www.wa.gov/doc>
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- ³⁶ Ibid.
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